

Group says 9 SLA men killed

SIDON (R) — A Palestinian group said Tuesday it killed nine Israeli-backed soldiers and seized a strategic hilltop during overnight clashes east of the southern Lebanon port. The group, "Followers of God," said in a statement, one of its men was killed and another injured in the exchange with the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia on the Kfar Falou front. It said its guerrillas overran the SLA-held strategic Hamra hilltop in Kfar Falou, 32 kilometers southeast of Beirut during the clashes with machine-guns and rocket-propelled grenades. The SLA's radio Voice of the South radio station said its men repelled an offensive by the pro-Iranian Hezbollah (Party of God), against an SLA post inside Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon. The radio said several of the attackers were wounded but no SLA militiamen were hurt. The Kfar Falou frontiers separates SLA-held territory from Palestinian and non-government areas. Independent security sources confirmed that Palestinian fighters carried out the attack and flew a flag bearing the words "Followers of God."

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House sends Zionism bill to Bush

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House of Representatives have passed and sent to President George Bush a bill calling on the United Nations to repeal a 15-year-old resolution equating Zionism with racism. On a voice vote, the lawmakers approved a measure, historically asking "all member states of the United Nations General Assembly to take immediate action" to repeal U.N. Resolution 3779, passed in 1975. The congressional legislation, passed May 3 by the Senate, also requires the president to report to Congress periodically on progress toward repeal. The administration supports the bill and is expected to sign it.

Irish MPs hold talks in Tehran

TEHRAN (R) — Three Irish parliamentarians held talks with Iranian officials about an Irish teacher held hostage by groups in Lebanon, the Tehran Times said Tuesday. The paper quoted MP David Andrews as saying they had discussed the case of Brian Keenan with two foreign ministry officials and two Iranian deputies. "Brian Keenan is a teacher who holds dual Irish-British nationality. Keenan originally is Irish and we are concerned with his captivity," Andrews told the English-language daily. Keenan, 39, was abducted more than four years ago. Three British and 11 other Westerners are missing believed kidnapped in Lebanon by groups loyal to Hezbollah.

Kohl aiming for all-German vote on Dec. 2 or 3

BONN (R) — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and his coalition partners agreed Tuesday that all-German elections should be held on Dec. 2 or 3, coalition sources said. Kohl recently came out in favour of replacing West Germany's Dec. 2 general election with an all-German vote, but had only spoken in general of December or early January. At Tuesday's coalition meeting, chaired by Kohl, the three ruling parties agreed to strive for all-German elections to be held on either of these two dates, coalition sources said.

Kollek at odds with U.K. consulate

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The Israeli mayor of Jerusalem, Teddy Kollek, accused the British consulate in Jerusalem of practising "apartheid" by holding separate official functions for Arabs and Jews. Kollek's spokeswoman said he would boycott a reception in honour of Queen Elizabeth's birthday Wednesday in protest. "This is a form of apartheid to which we cannot acquiesce. It is the role of a consulate to maintain contact with all the residents of the place where it is located; it is not its role to divide them," Kollek said in a statement Tuesday. British Consul-General Ivan Callan defended the policy, saying many Jews and Arabs would boycott joint events. Callan told Reuters: "We are confident in our judgement. We hold separate receptions as a courtesy to a large portion of people we have daily dealings with. One can't expect Kollek to bring about conciliations that greater parties have been unable to do."

Velayati rules out talks with Najibullah

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati of Iran Tuesday ruled out talks with the leader of Afghanistan's Communist-style government to end the 12-year-old Afghan war. "We have not softened our position with (Afghan President) Najibullah. We will not talk with him," said Velayati, who is in Pakistan for a meeting of the three-nation Economic Cooperation Organisation. His partners at the economic summit were Pakistan's Foreign Minister Sabahzada Yaqub Khan and Turkey's Minister of State for Economic Affairs Ismail Cetin. Pakistan and Iran have absorbed more than five million Afghan refugees since 1979, when the Soviet Union intervened militarily in the country.

Israel will have 7.5 million Jews by 2000 — Crown Prince

King warns of Israeli plots

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein met at the Royal Court with participants in an international symposium on Jerusalem which began in Amman Tuesday.

Welcoming the delegates, the King reminded them that the meeting, "not far from Jerusalem, bears a great significance." He praised their efforts in defending the Arab right in the Holy City.

King Hussein referred to recent international developments, which, he said, were positive in many aspects but adversely affected the Arab region and the Arab cause.

"Our meeting here as Christians and Muslims at a most opportune time is a welcome event because we need to talk in one voice and speak out in defense of our rights in the Holy City," said the King.

"The Christian-Muslim relationship has bound us firmly throughout the Arab and Islamic history and since the days of Omar and joined our efforts in repelling foreign aggression on Palestine in general and Jerusalem in particular," King Hussein added.

"We, as Christians and Muslims, are deeply pained to see and hear Israel's practices in Palestine," he added (see page 3).

French Jews urge Israel to open peace talks with PLO

World Zionists oppose settlement of Soviets in occupied territories

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Leading world Zionists, whose backing is crucial for Israel, have drafted a resolution opposing settlement of Soviet Jews on occupied Arab territories.

The resolution, to go before delegates from the World Zionist Organisation (WZO), was seen as a clear message to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's week-old hardline government which wants to build up Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"The resolution... is intended to send a message to the Israeli government. It should be clear there is no policy to settle Soviet immigrants in the West Bank and Gaza Strip," said Phyllis Sutker, who helped write the proposal, and is on the WZO executive committee.

It was the latest sign of American Jewry's concern over the emergence of the most right-wing government in Israeli history which rejects U.S. conditions for Middle East peace talks.

The 165-member general council will vote on the resolution in Jerusalem Wednesday.

On Tuesday, it provoked heated debate among delegates, traditional supporters of Israel who are being asked to foot much of the bill for setting up to one million Soviet Jews in the next five years. WZO has an international membership of 1.2 million.

The Soviet exodus has created alarm among Arab states that the newcomers will displace Palestinians from their homes.

The Hebrew text made available to Reuters said WZO would "concentrate all efforts to assure the emigration and absorption of Soviet Jews in Israel and prevent... setting the newcomers in locations likely to endanger the wave of immigration."

Shamir has been strongly criticised abroad since declaring a "big Israel" was needed for a big immigration.

He denies Israel has a policy of settling newcomers in the occupied territories. Shamir says Jews can live "wherever they like" and only a fraction have moved to the territories. Some 70,000 Jews live in settlements among 1.75 million

and Jerusalem and we believe that what is happening now is part of a major conspiracy directed against the Arab region — a conspiracy coming at a time when certain world powers place selfish interests above all considerations of values and ethics," the King pointed out.

Among those attending the meeting were Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and the King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan told the conference earlier Tuesday that immigration could raise Israel's population to 7.5 million Jews by the year 2000 and thus provides a new incentive for Israel to expand, he said.

"Bringing in these new migrants in such large numbers creates a new reality in Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza Strip," the Crown Prince said.

"It blocks the road to any peaceful settlement and might lead to all the land being swallowed up by this flood of migration," he added (see page 3).



His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday receives the health ministers of the four member countries of the Arab Cooperation Council (Petra photo)

ACC health ministers brief King

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received the health ministers of the four Arab cooperation Council (ACC) member states who are in Amman for their second meeting.

The ministers briefed the King on the outcome of their discussions and the steps taken so far to enhance and broaden scopes of cooperation among the four states in the field of health.

The ministers started their two-day meetings here Tuesday to discuss recommendations of the

last meeting and examine prospects for unifying health rules, regulations, and legislations in the four countries in a bid to achieve health integration in the four countries. Such an integration is seen as a prelude to achieving Arab health integration. The ministers will also exchange experience in the health field and will discuss means of developing the technical and administrative health personnel in the four countries.

Angolan truce said close

LISBON (Agencies) — Angola's government and UNITA rebels are closer than ever to signing a lasting ceasefire, despite the rebels' recall of their delegation from peace talks here, a Portuguese official said Tuesday.

Three days of talks between low-level government and rebel delegations ended Monday and produced "progress, but not yet enough for a full agreement," said Jose Manuel Durao Barroso, secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation.

"Both sides have never been so close to an accord as now. Only the final piece is missing, perhaps the smallest piece, but that's very often the most difficult piece to agree on," said Durao Barroso, who hosted this second round of talks at a military installation outside Lisbon.

Durao Barroso did not specify what point or point needed to be resolved.

The talks were sponsored by Portugal's Premier António Góis and Angola's president, Dr. Agostinho Neto.

Asked how long she would be

Romanian government launches crack-down

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania's government, given the go-ahead by parliament to crack down on protest, announced Tuesday the arrests of two more opposition leaders.

The arrests followed the detention Monday of Marian Mumteanu, a student leader severely beaten by miners last week. Mumteanu was removed from his hospital bed to an interior ministry hospital on charges of instigating violence.

The interior ministry, dominated by the National Salvation Front of President-elect Ion Iliescu, gave overwhelming approval on Monday to a motion by the interior minister calling for "the forces of law and order" to crush any new anti-government affaires.

The two are being held as part of an investigation into the 53-day anti-government protest brutally broken up by riot police last Wednesday. The crackdown triggered a wave of violence that drew severe international criticism.

In a related development, the Netherlands embassy said that Mumteanu's wife, Claudia, had sought refuge at the home of Ambassador Coen Stork.

"She has been at the residence of the ambassador since yesterday evening because she fears for her safety," said Dutch First Secretary Kees van Spronsen by telephone.

Asked how long she would be

Israeli mass killer fit to stand trial

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Israeli gunman who killed seven Palestinians, triggering major Palestinian unrest and international outrage, was responsible for his actions and fit to stand trial, prosecutors told a Tel Aviv court Tuesday.

The Israeli army had said 21-year-old Ami Popper, who gunned down his victims with an army-issued assault rifle, was unstable. His father described him as a "lunatic."

Popper was surrounded by 10 policemen when he appeared in the crowded courtroom. He was indicted Monday for murder and attempted murder in the May 20 incident.

Witnesses said Popper lined up Palestinians waiting for work at a pick-up point in Rishon LeZion near Tel Aviv and pretended to check their identity cards before spraying them with bullets at close range.

Citing a psychiatrist's opinion, prosecutor Nurit Shamir told the court: "We have an opinion the accused is fit to stand trial and is responsible for his actions."

Police Minister Ronnie Milo, appointed to Israel's new cabinet along with Arens last week, made a similar inspection trip to the Shuafat refugee camp in Arab Jerusalem.

Milo was briefed by area commanders in a police lookout above the camp while children above the streets below threw rocks at border police.

Bush asks Shamir to clarify policy

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President George Bush has called on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to explain what his new right-wing government will do to revive long-stalled Middle East peace efforts.

In a lengthy letter, Bush said he hoped the prime minister was still committed to a plan that Shamir espoused last year for elections of Palestinian representatives in the occupied territories, according to officials.

Shamir has adamantly objected to terms of a U.S. formula for opening an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue as part of his plan.

In a conciliatory note, Bush congratulated Shamir on forming a new government after three months of political deadlock.

Despite over U.S. led peace efforts have sparked tensions between the two sides.

Secretary of State James Baker said last week the United States would suspend its involvement in peace efforts unless Shamir makes compromises to open a dialogue with Palestinians.

Offering the number of the White House switchboard, Baker said the message for Israel is: "When you're serious about peace, call us."

In his letter, Bush asked Shamir "for a description of where he stands on the peace process at this time," White House Press Secretary Martin Fitzwater said.

Shamir, in a television interview Monday, said that Bush

"asked me for replies and explanations about our path in the framework of the peace process."

The prime minister said, "we will explain to him, to the best of our ability, our attitude, our proposals, and I sincerely hope if here and there, there are differences of opinion, we will reach an agreement."

David Levy, Israel's new foreign minister, has accused the United States of distorting the election initiative that Shamir offered in the spring of 1989.

Peres warns of war

Labour Party leader Shimon Peres Monday warned of increased extremism, violence and preparations for war in the Middle East if the new government fails to talk peace with Palestinians.

"If chances for peace disappear, I believe we should see the ugly phenomenon of yesterday re-emerging in the Middle East," Peres told Jewish leaders in New York.

"That is," he said, "escalation of the arms race, of threats, of terrorism, of violence, and of preparation for war. It's tragic for all parties concerned."

Speaking to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations in New York, Peres said a return to war preparations could be imminent if Israelis and Palestinians fail to overcome their differences and begin peace talks.

The six-year coalition between his Labour Party and Shamir's hardline

(Continued on page 4)

Deputy-cum-ministers seeking to join blocs in Lower House

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Government ministers who are also serving Lower House deputies are making attempts to join existing blocs in Parliament, according to a number of deputies.

"There seems to be an attempt by our colleagues who hold posts as ministers to join our ranks in some of the existing blocs," one deputy told the Jordan Times Monday.

"If I didn't know better I'd say they were trying to influence us," said another deputy.

Discussions are under way about the possible inclusion of four ministers, Yousef Mbeideen, Ali Faqir, Abdul Baqi Jammo and Abdul Majid Shreideh, in what was originally called the "Independent Bloc."

An initial truce engineered by Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko last June 22 at his home town of Gbadolite collapsed with in days and direct peace talks broke down soon afterwards.

Despite efforts by African and European diplomats and pressure from the United States and the Soviet Union, the belligerents were uneasy about having ministers as members of their parliamentary coalition. "If you ask me about the individuals I have no objection to any one of them joining. But I doubt that as ministers they can serve our bloc's interests well" said one

deputy member who preferred to stay anonymous.

"Let's face it. If we have to vote on an important government issue and we, as a bloc, decide to vote against it and our colleagues who are serving in the cabinet vote with us, then they will cease to be ministers," said another member of the bloc.

"On the other hand," he pointed out, "if they vote with the government it will mean that they are not really a member of our bloc."

The bloc's members are apparently split on the issue of broadening the membership of the eight-member bloc.

At present the House has three blocs other than the independent, the Muslim Brotherhood (22-24 members), the National Bloc (22 members), and the Democratic Bloc (nine members). At least another political party is in the making, but its founders have yet to announce its formation.

Spokesman for the National Bloc, deputies Dr. Abdullah Nsour and Dr. Mohammad Abu Aleim, confirmed specula-

tion that ministers Mohammad Al Zaben, Qassem Obaidat and Abdul Karim Al Kababiti have asked to join their parliamentary coalition.

"They were part of our coalition and we still consider them part of our bloc," said Dr. Nsour. He also confirmed that his bloc's membership now stood at 25, (including in the figure are the three ministers).

Democratic Bloc members have confirmed that ministers Ibrahim Ghabbash and Abdul Karim Al Dughmi have attempted to "rejoin" the bloc to which they originally belonged.

"Yes, they have asked to rejoin but in principle we are against having ministers in our coalition. It will reflect on our decision-making process and you should not mix two estates. It is against the principle of separation of powers," one Democratic Bloc member said.

Other members confirmed, however, that discussions were under way with the two deputies about the possibility of their rejoining the bloc.

General elections loom in Algeria after FIS win

ALGIERS (R) — Early general elections in Algeria that could bring Muslim fundamentalists to power appear likely after their upset victory in a local polling last week.

President Chadli Benjedid has not yet indicated whether he will dissolve parliament, now entirely run by the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) and not due for re-election until 1992.

But given the extent of the FLN's rout in the country's first free poll by the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), and Benjedid's own declared commitment to the democratic process, most Algerians feel general elections before 1992 are inevitable.

"Early (general) elections are certain. The question is when," said Azziki Ait Arbi, a senior member of the centre-left Rally for Culture and Democracy (RCD), the Berber-dominated party that came in fourth.

"For us the campaign for legislative elections has already begun," he told Reuters.

The popular vote has not yet been released but the FIS won 55 per cent of the 1,541 municipalities, the FLN 34 per cent, independents seven per cent and RCD six per cent.

The FIS lost no time in demanding a dissolution of parliament, and most political observers say the alternative is a prolonged period of social and political unrest.

The country is already racked by an economic crisis and a wave of strikes that has picked up steam since the elections and

"People who voted for the FIS were highly motivated by outrage at petty corruption by the FLN and the government at the local level. They wanted to punish those who were responsible," said Mahfoud Bennoune, social science professor at Algiers University.

This appeared to open the possibility that if an alternative, either a reformed FLN or a centre-left front, was organised in time the FIS was not an automatic winner.

The Socialist Forces Front of revolutionary war hero Hocine Ait Ahmed, powerful in his native Berber-speaking Kabylie region east of Algiers, is likely to enter a parliamentary race after boycotting the municipal and provincial poll.

The Movement for Democracy in Algeria of ex-President Ahmed Ben Bella, which also boycotted the poll, is also a potential force.

The RCD has called for a delay of between six and 10 months before new elections to allow what it calls the democratic parties to organise, and a non-partisan government to run the country in the meantime.

But the FIS has proved it has not only formidable dynamism and organisational powers, with a head start over all other parties, but a simple message with wide popular appeal.

"The present system is sick, the doctor is the FIS, and the medicine has existed for 14 centuries — Islam," FIS leader Abbasi Madani said recently.



Thomas Pickering

Arabs press for action at U.N.

MANAMA (AP) — Arab leaders are pressing the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Thomas Pickering, for positive action on the Arab-Israeli conflict at the next General Assembly session, diplomatic sources reported Tuesday.

Pickering was in Bahrain on the second stop of a swing through the Gulf which he started Monday in Saudi Arabia, amid strong Arab resentment of a recent U.S. veto of a U.N. Security Council draft resolution on the Israeli-occupied Arab territories.

The resolution envisaged dispatching a fact-finding mission to report on alleged Israeli abuses of the Palestinian population, which is in the third year of an uprising against the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, seized by Israel in 1967.

Pickering's swing is being given low-key treatment officially and in the media of the Gulf and, as one diplomat put it, "the lack of publicity is a message to the United States."

Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Arab countries that Pickering was to continue visiting later Tuesday are traditionally close friends of the United States. But expressions of indignation have been spilling out both officially and through the media at the U.S. veto in May of a resolution that all other 14 members of the Security Council backed.

The Arabs are now looking to alternative action from the General Assembly this autumn where the Arab-Israeli conflict is to be marked high on the agenda, according to the diplomatic sources who spoke on condition they not be named.

Meanwhile, the Libyan News Agency (JANA), as monitored by the British Broadcasting Corp., quoted Qaddafi as urging scientists Sunday to "work day and night" to build a nuclear weapon "in defiance of America."

He said the fire apparently was a hoax and also "a pretty clear indication of intentions and willingness to deceive the world in order to further their own intents on this issue."

Pickering was exchanging views with the Arab leaders on the issues that will come up on the agenda, and which are also expected to prominently include U.N. action in helping Iraq and Iran turn a two-year ceasefire into a lasting peace settlement, said the sources.

The Gulf leaders look to a U.S. stance at the world forum that would project American interest in a just settlement of the Palestinian problem and help balance a detrimental image of pro-Israeli American bias, they said.

In Saudi Arabia, a leading Arab nation and a close ally of the United States in the Arab World, Pickering left late Monday without seeing the Saudi monarch, King Fahd.

His arrival in Riyadh was not announced and a terse statement on the official Saudi Press Agency only mentioned that he met with Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal and discussed "political issues of mutual interest."

A spokesman for the U.S. embassy in Riyadh said that Pickering's tight schedule precluded a request for a meeting with the King. But Arab diplomats in the Saudi capital interpreted Fahd's not seeing a ranking U.S. diplomat as a sign of displeasure.

London-based human rights group, last week claimed up to 50 prominent people, including the country's former president, had been arrested for signing their name to a statement titled "Mogadishu Manifesto no. 1."

The statement, signed by more than 100 people and issued May 15, expressed concern at the destruction, killings and flow of refugees from Somalia's civil war, said Amnesty. It said the statement also criticised the government for violations of human rights, corruption and economic mismanagement.

Abdullah's announcement, broadcast on state-run Somali Radio and monitored in Nairobi, said authorities were holding "over 40 people" for distributing inside and outside the East African nation leaflets "claiming to advise the president."

He described them as "power seekers" whose aim was to create discord between the people and the government. He did not say when the leaflets first were distributed.

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Home News

Prince Hassan urges Arab-Islamic stand against 'greater Israel' plans

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday urged the Arab and Islamic nations to do all they can to abort world Zionism's plans of creating a "greater Israel," inhabited by 7.5 million Jews, by the end of the century.

"Such dreams, by the continued Jewish immigration into Palestine, constitute a grave danger to the Arabs and Muslims because they entail the danger of expanding Israel's borders at the expense of the Arab and Islamic nations," Prince Hassan said in a key note speech at the opening session of an international symposium on Jerusalem affairs.

"Israel's drive to bring in huge numbers of Jewish immigrants who are settled in occupied Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied territories is bound to abort all peace efforts for a lasting settlement," Prince Hassan said.

"There is an urgent need for Christian-Islamic solidarity in defense of the Holy City of Jerusalem and in a bid to abort the

immigration process which constitutes the gravest danger to the Holy Land since the creation of the Jewish state on Palestine," Prince Hassan warned.

The General Islamic Congress for Jerusalem organised the two-day meeting during which delegates from Islamic countries will discuss matters related to the city of Jerusalem, its history, religious importance to various religions and faiths and Israel's practices in violation of the international law as well as Jewish immigration and the creation of settlements around the Holy City.

"Jordan has been pursuing efforts over the past four decades to preserve the holy places in Jerusalem and has carried restoration work at the Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock as well as the Church of the Holy Sepulchre between 1956 and 1976," Prince Hassan said in his address which was delivered on his behalf by Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi.

Jerash to stage two famous operas in 1991

By Jouranna Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two Italian operas, performed by international acclaimed groups at Jerash are expected not only to draw heavy crowds to the ancient Greek-Roman city but also to boost Jordanian tourism.

The two operas, Norma by Bellini and Othello by Verdi, will be something for Jordan along the lines of what the famous "Aida" was for Egypt — a major international event, which organisers expect to be attended by over 20,000 people, a big majority of them foreign personalities.

"Jordan is giving us a great opportunity to perform a great opera," said Mario Corradi, stage director of Norma. "Jerash is an incredibly unique place," Corradi told a press conference Monday. "Nowhere else in this world can you find Norma."

According to the stage director, it will be the first time that the two operas would be presented at an open-air theatre; Norma will be staged on a full moon night with the Forum and the Temple of Zues in the background.

Norma is the story of a priestess who falls in love with a Roman officer and breaks her vows to please her lover only for him to leave her for a younger woman. Her tragedy is furthered by her being not only an abandoned lover, but also a scorned mother, according to a synopsis of the play. At the end, rather than to accuse her partner's newfound lover of the sin she is guilty of, she reveals her own sin and accepts to be sacrificed to the moon, a practice she conducted herself as priestess of the god Irmim.

According to Corradi, no other venue could be better for Norma than the temple of Zues and the Forum on a night of full moon. "It offers a unique, majestic ambience and backdrop," he said.

The other opera is made

Shakespearean play "Othello."

The two operas will be presented at Jerash in June 1991 immediately after the 1991 Jerash Festival of Arts and Culture.

Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Kabariti told the press conference that the Jerash Festival was an important element in Jordan's efforts to attract more tourists from different parts of the world in addition to presenting the artistic and cultural as well as historic features of the Kingdom.

He said the tourism authorities were extending support for the organisers of the two operas and special arrangements were being made by private tour operators to offer package tours to Jordan including the Jerash Festival and the Operas. However, he emphasised, the government was not financially committed in any way towards organising the events, "which will be funded by well-known international companies and tour operators."

The opera performances are significant because they represent the start of a new phase in our strategy of combining the best tourism, antiquities and culture to raise Jordan's profile on the international stage of special cultural events," Kabariti said.

Opera at Jerash is one of the activities that will appeal to culture-oriented international clientele, according to the minister. Other attractions Jordan offers include hiking and mountain climbing in Wadi Rum, safari drives through the eastern desert, scuba diving in Aqaba and therapy with Dead Sea waters, he said. "We aim at continuing to promote this kind of activities which combine a potential for specialised tourism with opportunities for cultural exchanges within a framework of artistic quality, cultural sensitivity and mutual respect," said Kabariti.

Corradi, the opera stage director, said he expected no

major technical or other problems in staging Norma and Othello at Jerash. "The problems will be minor and could be solved easily," he said in a reply to a question from an Italian journalist attending the press conference. Opera Norma, created by Bellini for Teatro Alla Scala in 1831, will be staged at the Forum at Jerash for three alternate nights starting June 29, 1991, and Othello at the South Theatre for three alternate nights starting July 4.

Since the story itself is set against a Roman background, no venue other than the Roman ruins at Jerash could be a better stage for Norma, according to Corradi. "Jerash is a unique, majestic place with the right ambience and backdrop," he said.

Two operas were successfully presented at the Jerash Festival in 1988 and were welcomed with enthusiasm by Jordanian audience. About 2,000 Jordanians were among the 30,000 people who watched Opera Aida presented against the background of the Great Pyramids in Egypt three years ago, according to reports.

In separate comments to the Jordan Times later Monday, Kabariti said he expected at least 4,000 Jordanians to be among the audience for Norma and Othello.

"It is worth going through this experience," Kabariti countered critics who argued that the staging of an opera like Norma or Othello could be a failure for Jordan.

"Jerash, the ancient city, and Jordan have always been a meeting place and a point of interaction among different people and cultures from East to West," he said.

Lino Cesario, producer and general organiser of the operas told the Jordan Times: "We will stage a special performance, free of charge, for people who would like to attend but cannot afford it. Music is an international language for peace; it is not for rich people only."

ACC agriculture ministers meet

AMMAN (J.T.) — Ministers of Agriculture in the four-member Arab Cooperation (ACC) countries will meet here Wednesday to discuss subjects related to the implementation of an ACC agricultural agreement.

The agreement aims at achieving coordination in agricultural policies in Egypt, Iraq, Yemen and Jordan, to protect vegetation, combat desertification, to learn the proper use of water for irrigation and ensure sufficient agricultural equipment.

ACC Secretary-General Hilmil Nammar said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the ministers will define the nature and quality of technical studies aimed at increasing the production of animal feed, and will review a feasibility study for a joint project to produce concentrated fodder. They will also work out programmes and plans for improving the production of vaccines, Nammar added.

According to Nammar, ACC ministers of planning will hold a meeting in Amman Wednesday to discuss proposals for the implementation of a planning agreement, and will try to draw up a joint investment strategy for their four countries. This entails unification of some laws and regulations, encouragement and protection for Arab and foreign investments.

Undersecretaries of the ministries of planning met in Amman Monday and Tuesday to prepare for the planning ministers meeting Wednesday.

Crown Prince bids farewell to pilgrims

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Fagir and other officials Tuesday bade farewell to Jordanian Muslims going to Mecca for this year's pilgrimage at the holy places there.

In a brief speech to the pilgrims the Prince emphasised the need for the Muslims to display total Islamic solidarity and unity and wished them happy pilgrimage.

Fagir also delivered a speech on the occasion, thanking King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and the Saudi authorities for their efforts to provide convenience and comfort for the Jordanian citizens.

Among speakers at the opening session were Kamel Sharif, chairman of the congress executive board Bishop Elias Khoury and former Sudanese President Abdul Rahman Swarreddah; they all called for stronger Islamic-Christian solidarity and relentless efforts to save Jerusalem.

Fagir Monday saw off a group of pilgrims from occupied Palestine as they started their overland trip to Mecca.

AMMAN — Polarisation of Jordanian women appears to be in the making as the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW) prepares itself for the federation's third national election of its 17-member executive committee.

Ten days ago Minister of Social Development Abdul Majid Shraideh appointed a temporary executive committee to oversee the elections scheduled to take place in various stages during the month of July.

The decision caused an uproar in some GFJW circles which complained that the minister did not have the right to take such a decision. Several federation members and ministry officials pointed out, however, that the previous executive committee had outlined their legal three-year term by more than a year.

"The committee kept on postponing the election date every few months so that now our elections are 12 months overdue," said one federation member.

The federation, established in 1981, formally began functioning in its capacity as a women's organisation in May 1983, when it formed its first executive committee.

The executive committee originally comprised the heads of the eight municipal chapters of the federation as well as seven other elected members of the federation.

The federation, as stated in its charter, propelled women into leadership roles and four members of the last executive committee ran in last November's parliamentary elections. Although no woman won a seat in Parliament, several made a very good showing, including former head of the GFJW Irbid branch and executive committee member Dr. Eida Mutlaq, along with three other

Queen, U.N. officials discuss women's centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday received at Al Ma'wa Palace a team of experts and officials representing three United Nations specialised organisations who are in Jordan to discuss the prospects of establishing a regional centre for research and training of Arab women in Jordan.

Being a highly-populated country, Queen Noor said, Jordan has a responsibility towards its people, and so extensive efforts are being made to reach women and their families in order to upgrade women's role in their local societies, thus benefiting the society at large.

The team briefed Queen Noor on the project, saying that the proposed centre would enhance Arab women's participation in socio-economic development on both the local and national levels, by organising training courses for women in all matters related to family life and socio-economic development.

During the meeting, the Queen praised the team's invaluable efforts in promoting women's role in the development process, and lauded their brotherly work.

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The team which groups representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organisations (AGPUNDO) and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), arrived in Jordan from Egypt and will continue its tour which includes Tunisia, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The Queen Tuesday received at Al Ma'wa Palace wife of the Indonesian Minister of Manpower, Batubara who is currently on a four-day visit to Jordan during which the minister will hold talks with senior officials on promoting bilateral cooperation in the fields of labour, social insurance and vocational training.

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Women federation readies for election amidst uproar

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Polarisation of Jordanian women appears to be in the making as the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW) prepares itself for the federation's third national election of its 17-member executive committee.

Ingram, accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, was briefed on the progress of work on these projects and the extent of benefit to the local farmers and their families.

According to Khaled Nawaiseh, director of the Agricultural Department here, 250 projects were implemented in the past five years benefiting 1,500 farmers and land owners within the Karak area.

In January, the WFP announced the approval of a five-year extension of its project to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the ministers will define the nature and quality of technical studies aimed at increasing the production of animal feed, and will review a feasibility study for a joint project to produce concentrated fodder. They will also work out programmes and plans for improving the production of vaccines, Nammar added.

WFP has assisted Jordan in agricultural development since 1964 and the project is now in its fourth phase. The project entails planting fruit trees and work to conserve soil; the main areas covered in the project are lands around Ajloun, Jerash, Salt, Amman, Ajloun, Zarqa, Madaba, Karak, Mafraq, Tafith and Maan, covering an area of 15,000 hectares.

The new phase of the project extends between 1990 and 1995, according to Ministry of Agriculture's sources who said WFP would be providing food commodities to the local farmers whose lands are being developed. The farmers receive wheat, vegetable oil, canned cheese, sugar, tea and other staples.

women, was appointed to the 60-member commission to draw up the national charter. During the term of the previous executive committee, a new set of by-laws governing the size, work and regulations of the federation was drawn up. The new guidelines have not only allowed for an enormous increase in the federation's membership, but, according to some, have also allowed for gerrymandering of a most curious sort. The new regulations, some federation members charge, are not only too complicated for the average member to understand, they are also "non-sense."

"According to the new by-laws the whole GFJW constitution will be changed to allow for what basically amounts to disproportionate representation," said one newer member of the federation, who has apparently tried to make sense of the new document.

Since the association's establishment its membership has consisted of women's societies, social institutions, clubs and individuals who join in a personal capacity.

According to the new by-laws, each social institution, club and society is represented in the municipal councils by two members while every 50 individual members are represented by three chosen delegates. The result, some federation members claim, gives "over-representation" to individual members, which have thus far had very little say in the federation's workings.

Opponents of the new clause claim that a society or institution, which needs a minimum membership of 30 persons to become a federation, is only allowed two representatives in the committee, although it could technically have hundreds of members.

Individual members, some say, could "take over" because proportionally they would have the more representation — and thus majority votes in the committee.

Supporters of the new by-laws, on the other hand, explain that the new set of rules allow for society, club and institution members to be counted as individual members as well.

Although the federation members are refusing to discuss their problems, outsiders claim that the newly registered 1,120 members of the Amman chapter may have something to do with the uproar.

"There are two things that must be considered. One is that the last executive committee overstayed its term by 12 months and that the members who have registered in the Amman chapter are mostly women with a 'somewhat religious inclination,'" explained an observer.

Federation members dismissed as absurd any discussion of political or religious influences on the federation's make-up.

"Opening the federation's doors to a greater number of women is what democracy is all about. To claim that a polarisation process is involved is ridiculous," said one member of the interim executive committee.

While neither the Ministry of Social Development nor the federation was able to give the exact number of members of the Kingdom's eight federation chapters, figures should be available by the time the Amman chapter holds in elections July 12.

One federation member said: "Ask the administration for a list of members before March 1990 and after, and you'll see that a hurricane of membership applications came right through here, and most of them looked like they belonged to the Islamic 'sisterhood' to me."

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings depicting the Jordanian environment by Adel Al Sharaf, Mohammed Assaf and Hani Khaz'al at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "La revolution: 200 ans apres" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of Ottoman textiles at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- ★ Exhibition of orientalist paintings by two German orientalists at the Goethe Institute — open 9-12 a.m. and 4-6 p.m.

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture on "The Future of Islamic Movement in the Last Decade of the 20th Century" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 6:30 p.m.

FILMS

- ★ French film entitled "Trop and Balthazar" at the French Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.
- ★ Feature film entitled "Educating Rita" at the British Council — 6:00 p.m.

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Social hangups in Jordan hinder nursing profession

By Nur Saif
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN. — Female nurses have been struggling with their image and status for many decades and more specifically in the Arab World, where traditional values and society have maintained a strong grip on how women interact with men in society. Furthermore, nurses have always been characterized as passive, nurturing handmaids of physicians and are dependent and somewhat subservient.

Even now, in many Arab countries, women are reluctant to enter the nursing profession for fear of being viewed upon as unknowledgeable and unskilled, says Dr. Rowaidah Ma'tah, vice president of the Faculty of Nursing at the Jordan University of Science and Technology in Irbid.

The issue of male-female physical contact is an added barrier to these women who think of entering the profession. In Saudi Arabia, for example, women have second thoughts about becoming nurses because of social factors, traditional values and family objections. The situation may not exactly be the same in Jordan, but there are still parental reservations over daughters becoming nurses.

"My father started threatening me as soon as I told him about my future career. He began picturing me cleaning a male body and constantly giving him my attention," said a nursing student at the Jordan University.

Over the past few years, society has been shaping up the images of nurses directly or indirectly. Nevertheless, the result is visible in the way the nurses view themselves. Females entering the profession hold low self-esteem, Ma'tah said. According to a questionnaire distributed to 190 women chosen from four different universities in Baghdad, only 3.2 per cent enjoyed being a nurse while the rest did not want to be practising nurses in the future. The reasons behind the negative responses were the attitudes of families, relatives and friends towards the profession.

Una Ridley, who presented a working paper on the profession of nursing earlier this year, said: "Students entering the profession bring with them a variety of attitudes, beliefs, and values about nursing and nurses. These attitudes often reflect the society's views of the profession and have continued to develop during the students' early lives through experiences with parents, teachers, and the media."

Jordan is facing similar problems. At the University of Jordan's Faculty of Nursing, students are not yet sure why they are enrolled in the course. "I did not know what else to do. I don't really like this profession, but my qualifications did not permit me to select another career. Besides, I thought it was an easy subject to grasp without much effort," says a first year student of nursing.

Another expert states that most nurses entering the profession "have selected it because of a desire to help people. What they discover is that altruism and good intentions are not enough and that nursing is a demanding profession requiring considerable intelligence and skill."

This seems to be the case with the majority of the women. They decide to take on this career as a last resort thinking it does not require much mental strain, says Ma'tah.

Research has revealed that public perceptions of a professional group are important because they influence the person into accepting or rejecting the profession and society is able to define the sort of functions that a profession is permitted to perform. Such perceptions determine the morale of the concerned professionals and their economic and social position in the community.

What society does not seem to realize is that the nurse is an important element to the hospital. Her task involves devoting her time to the patient and being the doctor's right arm. So the nurse has to "know a lot about medicine and the doctor's role," Ma'tah says.

"It is surprising to note that many doctors hold the same belief of the nurses as society," she asserted. Although some of them do not agree, most physicians have the impression that nurses are unskilled and treat them so.

But a doctor in Amman admits, "I could not carry out my daily affairs in hospital without a nurse. Doctors end up

relying on them so much that in fact they become more important and essential."

What could be done to influence the distorted image of nursing by utilising the media?

So far, media representation, mainly television series, have not played a constructive role in portraying nurses. Many programmes have portrayed nurses as saints.

Thomas Erskine, an expert, said that "Although Aaron Spelling, producer of 'Nightingale,' claimed that the series would present a 'more contemporary, reliable approach' to the lives of nursing students, the show actually features an outmoded, nursing education model, exploits women as commodities, and more closely resembles the sexually suggestive feature films it ironically criticizes in an episode."

The programmes have developed nurses into God-like figures possessing unlimited powers in making things always go right. However, this is not the case. "We are human and very realistic," says Ma'tah.

But Elman Jafar, another expert, states that recently, "Jordanian television has been trying to portray nurses in a more positive manner in a series known as Abu Awwad."

Few would challenge the impact of the mass media on public opinion. Many experts believe that the image reflected by the media carries the ability to penetrate into the minds of nursing students as they learn and step into their professional roles.

'Free trade' is another name for playing freely in Tunisia

By Jonathan Wright
Reuter

SFAX, Tunisia. — "Welcome to the market place of the Maghreb," said Hassan, proudly displaying his stock of Algerian light bulbs, leather shoes from Morocco, chocolate bars from Egypt and pasta made in Libya.

Hassan, who runs one of some 500 stalls down by the docks in the Tunisian port of Sfax, would like you to believe he is leading the drive for regional economic integration.

"We believe in free trade," he said. "We don't pay customs duty and we don't intend to either."

But as five north African countries take the first steps towards establishing a common market stretching from Tobruk to the Atlantic coast, the merchants of the so-called "Libya market" in Sfax are making the most of the remaining discrepancies.

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They take with them Tunisian products, like clothes and household goods, or imported goods which are unavailable in Libya because the state trading companies do not import them.

When money changes hands, it is at the rate of one Tunisian dinar to one Libyan. At the official rate the Libyan is worth three times as much.

The system, tolerated so far by both governments, results in some bizarre opportunities for profit.

One high-quality export brand of Tunisian olive oil, for example, finds its way back to the Tunisian market, undercutting the low-grade subsidised oil which the Tunisian government provides for domestic consumption.

Diplomats say they have even seen on sale blends of cooking oil which contain Tunisian olive oil exported to the European Community under a preferential quota.

The market, which sprung up in the months after the Libyan-Tunisian border reopened in Dec. 1987, depends on a complicated series of political and economic anomalies which have little to do with integration.

Every day hundreds of Tunisian pick-up trucks make the trip across the border to buy goods imported by the Libyan government with heavily overvalued Libyan dinars.

Only the Egyptian goods,

which include plastic toys, Misr instant coffee and Sheikh Al-Balad bubble-bubble tobacco, seem to be competing on something approaching the rules of free trade.

That a chain of private operators can relay these goods across North Africa, mark up the prices by several hundred per cent and still make a profit is an amazing tribute to the export potential of the Egyptian economy.

But Sfax traders, easy pickings may not last indefinitely.

At Libya's General People's Congress (parliament) in March, many of the delegates advocated closer controls over the trade, which is a serious drain on the Libyan treasury.

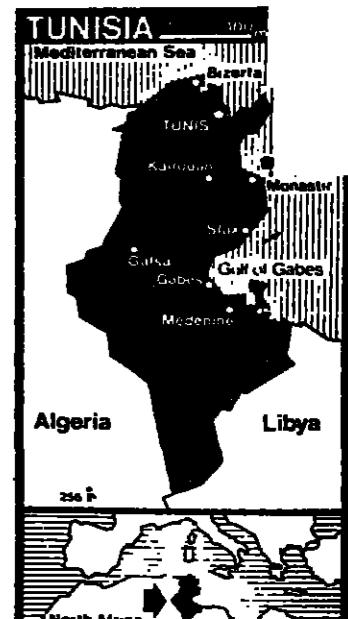
Libyan ministers have argued that the money they lose is a form of contribution to the cause of Arab unity. Those who oppose the trade are narrow-minded nationalists, they say.

But if the Libyan authorities go ahead with plans to introduce ration cards for subsidised goods such as rice, coffee and corn oil could disappear from Hassan's shelves overnight.

The sight of Tunisians in jeans standing by the roadside and waving bundles of black-market Libyan dinars at passing motorists was a shock to functionaries trained in the scrupulous methods of the French bureaucracy.

"We would like the trade to conform to the regulations on health and customs duties and so on," said a Sfax civil servant.

Industrialists complained of unfair competition for their goods while consumers and the traders were in favour of importing cheap goods and stimulating Tunisian exports.



CIA experiences American glasnost

By Joan Nowell
Associated Press

WASHINGTON. — The CIA is refocusing its operations to look at issues such as international economic competitiveness, terrorism and narcotics, but some experts say the agency is moving too slowly to keep up with changes in the post-cold war world.

The collapse of the Berlin Wall and the disintegration of the Warsaw Pact have tempered the great U.S.-Soviet rivalry and prompted the CIA to undertake a wide-ranging self-analysis to determine what it should be going and where it should be doing.

The agency, meantime, "nervously is eyeing budget cuts being made by Congress in the defense department, where most of the money for intelligence is put," he said.

The intelligence budget, which includes money for the CIA's sister agencies such as the Defense Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency, was estimated to be about \$28 billion in fiscal year 1990. The intelligence agencies want to avoid any proportional hit when defense is pared.

"The intelligence community will be scrutinised," said Representative David McCurdy, chairman of the House intelligence subcommittee on oversight and evaluation. "I see cuts in those areas that primarily support military functions."

Cover action — the area that has brought the agency its greatest notoriety — comprises only about 3 per cent of the CIA's budget. The bulk of the agency's work involves analysing voluminous data from various sources.

"There is more intellectual excitement in this building than there has been in years," the official said in an interview. He asked not to be identified by his name.

Practicing their own form of glasnost, CIA officials and some

members of Congress these days speak forthrightly about unique opportunities in 1990 for re-evaluating operations and goals, as well as the daunting challenges.

But they insist intelligence needs will not diminish, they'll simply be different.

The era of the cloak and dagger may be over, but the cloaks are likely to multiply and become even more pervasive in their effort to procure military, industrial and commercial secrets," said Sen. William Cohen, the ranking Republican party member on the Senate intelligence panel.

"It is time to face new enemies — drugs, terrorism, poverty, brush fire wars and pollution of our planet," he said.

And while some spies will come in from the cold, "many more will bark and flourish," Cohen said.

Boren agrees. The "growth area" is the industrial espionage that is carried out by foreign governments against private U.S. companies.

"More and more, the aim of espionage is to steal private commercial secrets for the sake of national economic purpose," Boren told the National Press Club recently.

"We're going to have to know about foreign governments' intentions for oil production levels, exchange rates and trade policies," he said. "We're going to have to protect our own commercial enterprises against the theft of commercial secrets."

David Whipple, Executive Director of the Association of

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Oil prices tumble below \$16 per barrel

Iraq slams Arab countries for slide in world oil prices

BAGHDAD (R) — Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) heavyweight Iraq Tuesday blamed quota-busting by some of the other Arab states for the current slide in world oil prices, joining a growing chorus of alarm among producers.

U.S. crude oil futures dropped below \$16 per barrel Monday to 18-month lows, down more than one-third since January.

Oil for delivery in July slid \$0.68 a barrel to \$15.94 on the New York mercantile exchange, after dipping as low as \$15.90 during the day.

The last time prices for West Texas intermediate, the benchmark U.S. grade of crude, had come as low was in December 1988.

Declines in Europe were less dramatic, but prices for Brent blend crude from the North Sea, the world benchmark, slid almost \$0.20 to \$14.85 a barrel in London.

Traders said the latest drop was because the market could see no evidence that two Middle East over-producers, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Kuwait, had done enough to cut output in line with OPEC accords.

Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi named no names in a statement published Tuesday but said that some producers caused the glut by raising output last winter when a freak cold snap temporarily boosted U.S. fuel demand.

Commercial Union launches UCITS

West's high-tech firms still wary about trade with East

By Catherine Arnst
Reuter

LONDON — Uncertainty and caution. The watchwords remain the same for Western electronics companies which deal with Eastern Europe despite a big relaxation on trade in equipment once thought to be defence-related.

In the most radical decision of its 41-year history, the 17-nation Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls (COCOM) slashed by one-third in early June a list of exports barred for security reasons from Warsaw Pact countries.

At a stroke, U.S. officials said, the way was clear for American goods to the reformed East Bloc worth about \$45 billion.

But makers of telecommunications equipment, computers and machine tools remain wary.

Eastern Europe, suffering from a severe shortage of foreign exchange and trapping with weak domestic economies, must still face the problem of how to pay for such advanced equipment.

"The main obstacle is not COCOM but price," said Stefan Widomski, vice president of export operations for Finnish electronics group Oy Nokia AB.

East Bloc states might turn to lower priced producers such as South Korea or Singapore, rather than buy from the West.

"Even if the restrictions are lifted, I don't think we will be very competitive," Widomski said.

COCOM, whose members include all 16 North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)



Issam Al Chalabi

"This had encouraged some states, among them... Arab ones, to take certain attitudes to affect the price levels... they have increased production on a large scale," Chalabi told Al Iraq newspaper.

But its secretary-general, Subroto of Indonesia, said last weekend that cuts in May only totalled about 400,000.

Gulf-based traders say Kuwait had started to cut output during the second half of this month but the UAE had not.

But they doubted whether Kuwait's cut would exceed 200,000 barrels per day (bpd).

Chalabi quoted officials of over-producing countries as saying "they were not able to reduce production in May, promising to strive to do that in June."

He said rapid action to cut production would protect their interests and income as well as those of other producers.

World demand for OPEC oil in 1990 is currently seen at around 22.0 million barrels daily, analysts said.

Unconfirmed reports that Kuwait was offering price reductions to Japanese customers similar to those reportedly pledged by Saudi Arabia two weeks ago also sent prices sharply lower, sources said.

Even if OPEC nations successfully cut output, oil prices would be unlikely to show any significant recovery in next two months due to high levels of global crude stocks, an official at another Japanese oil firm said.

Trade sources have said that both Kuwait and Iran are being pressed to at least match the Saudi cuts. Trade reports that Saudi Arabia was discounting its July contract prices by up to \$0.70

cents a barrel to Asian customers send prices tumbling two weeks ago.

Analysts said that once prices penetrate \$16 a barrel, the next level of major support lies at \$15.40 a barrel. But prices could slip lower.

"If gasoline starts to lose its punch then (crude) could reach \$15.25 to \$15.50 in the next two weeks," said Jayne Ball at New Century Resources.

OPEC is not seen likely to cut production soon.

"With OPEC nations having financial problems, they are unlikely to initiate production cuts to solve the global oil glut," said Toshio Inoue, manager for Cosmo Oil's International Affairs Division.

Trade sources have said that both Kuwait and Iran are being pressed to at least match the Saudi cuts. Trade reports that Saudi Arabia was discounting its July contract prices by up to \$0.70

Mitterrand urges aid plan for Soviet Union

PARIS (R) — President François Mitterrand said in an interview published Tuesday that France would urge the West in the next few weeks to consider a major economic aid programme for the Soviet Union.

He told the daily *Le Monde* he believed President Mikhail Gorbachev was capable, despite great difficulties, of raising Soviet living standards.

But if he failed to hold the country together there could be grave international repercussions.

"Therefore, I intend to ask the forthcoming summits in Dublin European Community (EC) and Houston (Group of Seven industrialised democracies) to consider financial, commercial and technical aid for the USSR," Mitterrand said as saying.

"If not, the rise of nationalism threatening the implosion of the Soviet Union will set off a cycle of confrontation and violence which will have grave international repercussions."

The 12-nation EC meets in

'Reforms needed in Africa to end crisis'

LONDON (AP) — Africa needs to revitalise its commodity industries to emerge from its current "deep crisis," according to a team of United Nations experts.

"African policy makers must use commodity production and trade as the motor for expansion," the team of experts said in a report released in London, Monday.

There is a "need for economic reform throughout Africa" to allow it to win back commodity markets lost to developing countries in Asia and Latin America, the team's chairman, former Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser, told a news conference.

Success in the commodities markets would help put the continent's economies on the path to growth, he said.

UN figures show that Africa's share of the world exports of cocoa and coffee have slipped sharply during the past 20 years. Those two commodities and oil and copper generate about two-thirds of the continent's foreign exchange.

"Africa is in deep crisis," the report said.

Africa's share of the world cocoa market is now under 60 per cent, compared with near-

ly 75 per cent in 1970, the report said. For coffee, the figure is now below 20 per cent, compared with nearly 30 per cent, it said.

Africa's overseas debt in the same period rose from \$106 billion to \$220 billion, according to UN figures.

UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar established Fraser's 16-member team of experts a year ago to look into Africa's problems in commodities and to come up with solutions.

Africa's commodities markets have been depressed, with coffee and cocoa prices hitting 14-year lows earlier this year and crude oil prices hitting two-year lows in recent months.

African governments have primary responsibility for turning their economies around, the report said.

Real growth opportunities exist in the commodity sector, based on rising world demand for raw materials, it says.

Fraser said he saw the potential for increased sales of African commodities to the Soviet Union and other East European countries.

The UN group recommended better organisation of production, marketing and transport.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

		Tuesday, June 19, 1990	
		Central Bank official rates	
Buy	Sell	French franc	118.4
U.S. dollar		Japanese yen (for 100)	434.1
667.0	671.0	Dutch guilder	436.7
Pound Sterling	1141.4	1148.2	355.8
Deutschmark	398.2	400.6	109.8
Swiss franc	471.9	474.7	54.3
		Italian lira (for 100)	54.6
		Belgian franc (for 10)	193.6
			194.8

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

		LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.	
One Sterling	1.7110/20	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1730/40	Canadian dollar	
1.6755/60		Deutschmarks	
1.8840/50		Dutch guilders	
1.4140/50		Swiss francs	
34.46/47		Belgian francs	
5.6330/80		French francs	
1228/1229		Italian lire	
153.65/75		Japanese yen	
6.0700/50		Swedish crowns	
6.4500/50		Norwegian crowns	
6.3750/3800		Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	348.65/349.05	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — The market closed lower in very thin trading. A lack of fresh news related to currencies or interest rates and caution ahead of Tuesday's Japanese money supply data helped dampen interest. The Nikkei fell 161.60 to 32,376.80.

SYDNEY — The market closed firmer in relatively featureless trade dominated by turnover in major banking stocks. The All Ordinaries Index closed up 3.6 to 1,506.1.

HONG KONG — Closed for Queen Elizabeth's birthday holiday. The Hang Seng Index closed Friday at 3,201.52, up 9.97.

SINGAPORE — Prices closed mixed in thin and very quiet trading after selective bargain-hunting alternated with some selling. However, large gains in some stocks on the Straits Times Industrial Index pushed it up 14.43 to 1,545.72.

BOMBAY — Share prices rose broadly as renewed monsoon rains brought droves of investors back to the market after two weeks of sluggish trade. The Bombay Stock Exchange Index rose 5.37 points to 791.32.

FRANKFURT — A brief mid-session buying spree pushed the Dax Index above 1,800 but buying orders tailed off as prices rose. The index closed at 1,797.42, up 5.16.

ZURICH — Shares closed broadly lower on light volume. The SPI Index fell 6.8 points to 1,179.1.

PARIS — Prices were lower by midday, testing resistance around the key 2,000 level on the CAC-40 index. At 1115 GMT the index was down 12.47 at 1,999.40.

LONDON — Shares added to earlier losses in late trading and were near their lows for the day following a 20-point slide soon after the New York opening. At 1446 GMT the FTSE 100 index was down 22.8 at 2,369.5.

NEW YORK — Stocks fell sharply in morning trading, hit by futures-related selling and a continuing drop in U.S. bond prices. The Dow was down 22 at 2,914.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY JUNE 20, 1990
By Thomas S. Person, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: An opportunity that you thought had gone by the wayside has in part become an option again... Try to resolve this project and get it back on line with trusted associates.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19)

This is a fine day to get right into whatever your daily activities are whether of a personal, business, sales or government nature so do them well.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20)

Take a good look at your appearance and what can be done to make it more as you feel 'most comfortable and happy in the association of others.'

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21)

Take a second look at what is occurring at your home and just what you can do to improve the efficiency and operativeness of the Soviet Union.

Capricorn: (December 22 to January 20)

Take some moments to refresh yourself upon the requirements for some new interest that intrigues you and then pursue adding to such knowledge.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19)

The various income-and-expenses that require attending to can now be put into right perspective and an intelligent course arranged.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20)

Put yourself in a position to get the truth from a reticent partner how you can best operate more closely in union with this individual.

consciousness and you can handle them well by taking them up one by one in organised order.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22)

Consider your own intimate urges and what you can do to make them come true in your everyday living and you make this an unusually good day.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21)

Think about the various friends and acquaintances who can be helpful to you in pursuing your personal aims and you get some desired support.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21)

Whatever you have agreed to do where public matters that can affect your reputation and good name are concerned should be done scrupulously.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20)

Take some moments to refresh yourself upon the requirements for some new interest that intrigues you and then pursue adding to such knowledge.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19)

The various income-and-expenses that require attending to can now be put into right perspective and an intelligent course

Argentines lament tie with Romania

BUENOS AIRES (Agencies) — Argentines lamented their soccer team's 1-1 tie against Romania in the World Cup playoffs Monday, fearing their players had fallen short of their status as titanic.

Local fans felt a few, fleeting moments of glee when Pedro Monzon headed into Romania's net after 62 minutes for a 1-0 lead.

But six minutes later Gavril Ratush damped their joy by scoring. Romania's equaliser, sparked off bickering among Argentines about their team's lackluster performance.

"At times we played well and at others we played badly. I think (head-coach Carlos) Bilardo must beef up our midfield because they are running past us like a hot knife through butter," President Carlos Menem said at government house after the match.

Other fans pilloried the teams for playing conservatively.

"Both played to tie. I expected something else from Argentina but it's obvious that (captain Diego) Maradona is 90 per cent of our team. If he is not up to scratch, we're nothing," office worker Julio Diana said.

The draw left Argentines wondering which teams they will meet in the next round of the playoff. Many were worried about having to face arch-rivals Brazil, but some expressed hope.

President Menem, who last year played a full 90-minute match with Argentine internationals to raise funds for the poor, was one of the optimists.

"We've always played good matches against Brazil — they've won some, we've won others. But I think we can reach the next round beating the Brazilians," he said.

Balot propelled Romania into the World Cup's second-round for the first time.

Argentina also advances to the second round with a third-place finish in Group B.

Romania finished second in the group, because it scored more goals than Argentina, which also finished the round with three points.

"The result is historic for Romania," said coach Emerich Jenei. In four previous tries, Romania never past the first stage of the championship.

Soviets win and lose; Cameroun loses and wins

BARI, Italy (AP) — Cameroun is a big winner despite being crushed by the Soviet Union. The Soviets were filled with bitterness after their victory.

In the topsy-turvy scheme of World Cup soccer, Cameroun won the championship of Group B Monday while losing 4-0. The Soviets earned a long trip home.

The "indomitable lions" clinched the group title thanks to

Argentina and Cameroun playing to a 1-1 draw in Naples. They then said the embarrassing defeat to the Soviets helped their chances in the second round.

"A defeat is always a very good lesson," said Cameroun coach Valery Lobanovsky. "I think my side is an intelligent team, and an intelligent team cannot make gross mistakes two times in a row. I hope today's defeat will bring our players back to the ground."

Defender Stephen Tataw, the Cameroun captain, said the defeat may lessen the pressure on a team that entered the game with

out a loss in its World Cup history. It played three draws in 1982, but failed to advance on goal differential, and won both previous matches in Italy.

"A defeat makes people ask themselves questions about what went wrong and forces them to look for solutions," he said. "This defeat has taught us a lesson."

The Soviets had lost their previous two games and entered the contest needing a huge margin of victory and a loss by either Romania or Argentina to keep alive its slim chances of advancing to the second round.

It produced the big triumph, but Romania and Argentina did not cooperate.

"Tonight's victory did not take away the bitter taste of the earlier defeats," said Soviet coach Valery Lobanovsky. "It is a shame we cannot continue in the championship."

Lobanovsky reflected on the poor finishing that plagued his

Sweden needs victory to advance

GENOA, Italy (AP) — After two near-misses, Sweden must beat Costa Rica in Wednesday's Group C finale to have any chance of reaching the knockout stage in the World Cup.

Brazil, which edged Sweden 2-1 and Costa Rica 1-0 for four points, already has qualified for the second round. But the Brazilians have not yet clinched first place in Group C.

The battle for the other second-round berth — and possibly a third spot since four third-placed teams also qualify — is wide open. It could very well be settled on goal differential.

Costa Rica upset Scotland 1-0 in its first ever World Cup finals game June 11 and then lost 1-0 to Brazil. It could advance by drawing Sweden.

Wednesday's game will be the first ever between Sweden and Costa Rica.

"We can't afford to lose even 1-0 against Sweden," said Costa Rica's Yugoslav coach, Bora Milutinovic. "But we are going to draw. I am optimistic. Sweden played well against Brazil, less well against Scotland, so they are hard to judge."

Milutinovic, who has improved Costa Rica's style of play in less than four months as coach, is not expected to make any changes for Wednesday's game.

Sweden made two changes in its 2-1 loss to Scotland Saturday and coach Olle Nordin announced two new starters Tuesday.

Midfielder Glenn Stromberg, a substitute in both previous games, will replace injured Jonas Thern.

Johnny Ekstrom, also a sub against Brazil and Scotland, will play up front with Tomas Brodin.

"Stromberg was an easy choice because of Thern's injury," said Nordin.

Then, who plays for Benfica Lisbon, suffered a back injury in the physical game against Scotland.

Stromberg, a hard-working veteran from Atlanta in the Italian league, came on as a sub and scored a late goal against Scotland.

Nordin told his players that it's going to be a soccer war at Luigi Ferraris stadium.

"We have to play aggressively and work, work, work," said Nordin. "Now we have to prove ourselves."

It is do-or-die for Sweden, which topped its qualifying group ahead of England.

Yugoslavia beats UAE to reach second round

BOLOGNA (R) — Yugoslavia qualified for the second round of the World Cup finals with a 4-1 win over Group D underdogs the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Tuesday.

The goals by Darko Pancev, a replacement for the injured Srecko Katanec, and one apiece by veteran Safet Susic and Robert Prosinicki gave Yugoslavia the win they needed to go through for the first time since 1974.

Striker Ali Thani Juma caught Yugoslav goalkeeper Tomislav Ivkovic napping to pull one back for the Emirates but the team's final outing at their first World Cup was marked by injuries and a sending off.

Ali Thani limped off at half-time and leading midfielder Nasir Khamis Mubarak was also substituted in the first half after a foul which Yugoslav midfieler Dragoljub Brnovic a booking.

UAE were reduced to 10 men in the 77th minute when Khalil Ghani appeared to trip Pancev for a foul on Pancev.

Susic celebrated his 50th cap by putting the Yugoslavs, twice World Cup semifinalists, ahead after just four minutes.

He ran down the centre to

meet a heavily angled cross from the right from Refik Sabanadzovic and slotted it home.

More misfortune struck the UAE when Khalil, one of their strongest players, was sent off for fouling the ball on Pancev. He had already received a yellow card.

The loss proved costly with Prosinicki, a 79th minute substitute for Sabanadzovic, scored the fourth goal in injury time.

He brought down a high cross and looped the ball over the heads of the watching UAE defenders.

The Yugoslavs appealed for a penalty when defender Khalil Ghani appeared to trip Pancev as he ran into the area but Japanese referee Shizuo Takada waved play on.

As Yugoslavia began to sit up, the UAE, who also lost both their other group matches, pulled a goal back in the 21st minute. Adnan Khamis Talyani crossed for Ali Thani to head past the surprised Ivkovic.

But Ali Thani's joy did not last.

He limped off, supported by two coaches, at half-time after injuring his left leg and was replaced by Fahad Khamis, himself not long recovered from a groin strain.

The Yugoslavs returned after the break determined to keep pressing and within the first minute Pancev had put them 3-1 ahead.

Captain Zlatko Vujovic crossed

West Germany, Colombia tie

Rudi Voeller during an extraordinary first-half incident involving Colombian playmaker Carlos Valderrama.

Valderrama, playing a lively role in galvanising the Colombian attack, evaded a challenge by Reuter but was hauled down by Klaus Augenthaler.

He had been on the ground fully a minute, surrounded by team mates, when West Germany

broke away through Voeller on the left flank.

Alvarez brought down the striker and was booked, with Valderrama still on the ground.

Four minutes after the original incident, Valderrama was stretchered off but soon returned.

After the incident he was booed by West German fans in the 72,510 crowd every time he

ANNOUNCEMENT

Advises of the STAATSBANK of the German Democratic Republic for natural persons and corporate bodies or other authorities with residence or seat outside the German Democratic Republic concerning the currency conversion within the scope of the monetary union between the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany can be looked through at the Embassy of the German Democratic Republic in Amman.

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* 15 September 1990 in Northern Ireland.

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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNHA HIRSCH

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A NECESSARY PRECAUTION

Both vulnerable. West deals. NORTH
♦ 8 7 3 ♦ 8 7 4 ♦ 0 A Q 10 ♦ Q 10 ♦ K 10 ♦ E 9 5 ♦ 0 6 3 2 ♦ A K J 6 3 ♦ 9 7 4 ♦ SOUTH
♦ A Q J 6 2 ♦ 10 5 ♦ 10 4 ♦ 9 5 ♦ Q 3 ♦ 9 6 2 ♦ 0 K 9 5 ♦ 0 6 3 2 ♦ A K J 6 3 ♦ 9 7 4 ♦ The bidding:
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2 ♦ Pass Pass 3 ♦
Pass 4 ♦ Pass Pass
Pass
Opening lead: King of ♦
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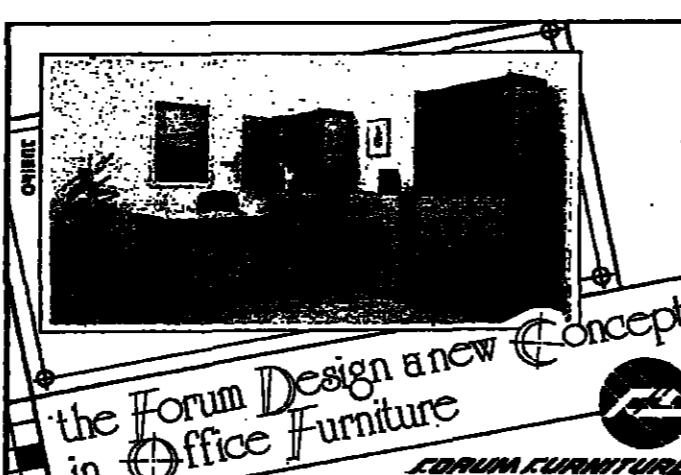
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Russians to form own communist party under Soviet umbrella

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev Tuesday endorsed the formation of a Russian Communist Party within the national party, but warned that friction between Russian and central leaders could destabilise the nation.

"I view... the Russian Communist Party as part of the Soviet Communist Party. And I sharply disagree with those who see the salvation of Russia in withdrawing from the Soviet Union," Gorbachev said, a Kremlin address.

The meeting is viewed as a bellwether of the watershed 28th congress of the Soviet Communist Party due to start on July 2.

Gorbachev, chairman of the bureau that is organising the Russian Party, appeared firmly in control of the founding conference, which opened Tuesday in the Kremlin Palace of Congress.

He strongly defended his cautious economic and political reforms, and resisted efforts by radicals to open a debate on Russian sovereignty. He successfully sought to steer the conference on a centrist course, be-

tween radicals who want to hasten steps toward a market economy and conservatives who want to slow the reforms.

At the opening of the session, nearly 2,700 Russian Communists approved an agenda that included re-establishing the Russian Communist Party, which 65 years ago was absorbed into the national party.

Of the 15 Soviet republics, only Russia has not had its own party, in large part because Russians have dominated the national and the 14 republic parties.

However, under Gorbachev's reforms, other nationalities have asserted control of their own parties, and the authority of central government and party authorities has weakened.

Gorbachev vowed to stem the flow of authority from the centre.

The Communist Party of Lithuania has followed the most radical course, separating from the national party several months before the Lithuanian parliament voted on March 11 to secede from the Soviet Union.

The founding conference of the Russian Communist Party came a week after the republic's parliament approved a resolution calling for further legislation to declare that Russian laws supersede Soviet laws on Russian territory.

The resolution, which did not carry the force of law, opened the door for the Russian parliament to pass legislation transferring most political and economic decision-making power from central to republic authorities.

The champion of that movement is the newly elected president of Russia, Boris N. Yeltsin, who sat near Gorbachev on the dais Tuesday.

The decision to found a separate Russian party comes in response to two otherwise antagonistic political movements.

Radicals, including Yeltsin,

view formation of the party as a means of weakening central authority and hastening the reforms. Conservatives, especially nationalists, see a Russian party as a vehicle of preserving political and cultural traditions.

Several hours into the conference, it was not clear which course the delegates might chose.

Although Gorbachev acted as chairman of the session, he was not among the candidates considered likely to be elected as first secretary, or leader, of the new party.

Those in the running were the Soviet premier, Nikolai Ryzhkov, Interior Minister Vadim Bakatin and Yuri Manamakov, a secretary of the national party, said Andrei Gireenko, another national party secretary.

The sources said government forces were also advancing in three columns on the town of Batticaloa, 140 kilometres south of Trincomalee.

The two towns have seen some of the most severe fighting since the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), who want an independent state for Sri Lanka's Tamil minority, launched their latest offensive on June 11.

The sources said Trincomalee was wrested from the Tigers after a fierce battle Monday, the day the government ordered its forces on the offensive after peace talks failed.

"From now on it is all-out war. We will annihilate the Tigers," said Deputy Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne, who is in charge of military operations.

Sri Lankan army recaptures Trincomalee after fierce fighting

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan troops waging all-out war against Tamil rebels have recaptured the major east coast port of Trincomalee after fierce fighting, military sources said Tuesday.

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"Over 100,000 Tamils and Muslim people have been made refugees in the Batticaloa district as a direct consequence of massive offensive operations by the Sri Lankan Armed Forces," it said.

Wijeratne told parliament the security forces had killed 600 Tigers since the fighting began last week. "Our losses have been minimal," he added.

Other sources said 100 soldiers might have died in combat. Some 215 policemen abducted by the rebels were reported to have been lined up and shot dead.

The Tigers captured 20 police stations, abducted 800 policemen and seized arms, ammunition and vehicles last week. Seven of the police stations were reported to have been recaptured by government forces.

The Tigers, in a statement issued from their London office, said the security forces had launched a "major offensive."

"Over 100,000 Tamils and Muslim people have been made refugees in the Batticaloa district with rocket-propelled grenades, mortars and small arms."

A military officer also accused the rebels of lobbing "chemical bombs" at the camp.

COLUMN

Kurosawa gets Japanese award

NEW YORK (AP) — Akira Kurosawa, Japan's most influential film maker and the recipient of four Academy Awards, was given the 1990 Japan Society Award. Kurosawa, 80, who has made 28 movies, many of them epics set in long-gone eras of Japanese history, was honoured by the Japan Society for increasing appreciation and understanding of Japanese society and culture.

"The town of Batticaloa is in the process of being consolidated and it is expected to be secured early," a military source said.

On Monday the rebels attacked a camp at Kiran near Batticaloa with rocket-propelled grenades, mortars and small arms.

A military officer also accused the rebels of lobbing "chemical bombs" at the camp.

Lone Soviet hijacker surrenders in Finland

HELSINKI (AP) — A lone hijacker Tuesday forced a Soviet airliner with 54 passengers and five crew members to land in Helsinki, Finland, where he asked for asylum and surrendered. Finnish and Soviet sources said.

Passengers left the aircraft as it stood, surrounded by police, beside a runway at Helsinki Airport.

Passenger identified as 22-year-old Oleg Kozlov, surrendered after being questioned by police.

Swedish radio said the hijacker was identified as a Finn. It said Finnish officials radioed him aboard the twin-jet Tupolev 134 and persuaded him to fly to Stockholm, Sweden.

A Swedish air rescue spokesman in Stockholm had earlier quoted Finnish officials as saying the hijacker wanted to fly to Israel, stopping in Stockholm en route.

The hijacking was the second of a Soviet domestic flight in 10 days.

U.S. troops killed, injured by friendly fire in Panama

WASHINGTON (R) — Two U.S. troops were killed and at least 19 wounded by fire from their own forces in the Dec. 20 invasion of Panama, the Defense Department has said.

The Pentagon statement also said a third U.S. death was under investigation and that 21 other Americans may have been wounded by fire from their own forces in the pre-dawn attack by thousands of paratroopers and special forces troops.

The statement was in response to a report in Newsweek magazine that up to nine of the 23 Americans killed in the invasion may have died from friendly fire and that up to 60 per cent of the more than 300 U.S. wounded may have been hit by U.S. fire.

But the Pentagon said 20 of the 23 Americans dead were killed by enemy fire in fighting with Panama Defense Forces (PDF) and other supporters of Panamanian strongman General Manuel Noriega.

"Of 23 American servicemen killed in action in Operation Just

4 Indian police die in Kashmir rocket attack

SRINAGAR, India (R) — Kashmiri militants used grenades and rockets in a sneak attack on two hotels housing Indian security forces Tuesday, killing four policemen and wounding six.

"We were taken by surprise by the attack which lasted 30 minutes," a police officer on the scene said.

He said it was the first time Muslim militants fighting to end Indian rule in the Himalayan region had used rockets against security forces.

A group calling itself the Muslim Jamiat Force claimed responsibility for the attack on the hotels overlooking Dal Lake in Srinagar, the region's main city.

In peaceful times the lake and its houseboats are the centre of the scenic region's lucrative tourist industry.

Police said the two lakeside hotels, 150 metres apart, came under fire simultaneously.

Liberian rebels repeat call for Doe's exile

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP) — The leader of the rebel delegation to Liberian peace talks says the insurgents have not agreed to a ceasefire and continue to demand the exile of President Samuel Doe.

Thomas Woewiyu, interviewed Monday night, also spurned Doe's offer of a general amnesty that would permit the insurgents to set up their own political party.

The Defence Department statement said that 19 of the 324 American wounded were caused by friendly fire.

"An additional 21 were injured by either friendly or enemy fire during the intense night fighting in the vicinity of the Commandancia (PDF Headquarters)," the Defense Department said. "We cannot distinguish which of the 21 were hit by friendly or enemy fire."

The invasion resulted in the arrest of Noriega, who was taken to the United States where he is still facing drug trafficking charges. Noriega denies the charges.

Run-offs in Bulgaria's first free elections in 58 years left the former Communist Party with a majority in parliament, but opposition parties won 47 per cent of the vote, making them key players on the future political scene.

Premier Andrei Lukanov said he was confident of forming a government with broad support. But his chances remained uncertain because of opposition from Zhelev, leader of the 16-party Union of Democratic Forces, which finished a strong second with 36 per cent of the vote.

The UDF Coordinating Council, the disparate alliance's executive organ, was scheduled to meet Tuesday to develop a joint stand, and informed sources said heated discussions were expected.

Before the election, Zhelev had raised the possibility of a government of non-political professionals, but he said Monday this was only in the event of a hung parliament and with the Socialists winning a majority it was no longer an option.

Zhelev described the outcome of the elections as "very good," saying "this means we are a strong constructive opposition, and the BSP (Socialists) will be a weak one-party government."

"In such a situation, as is usual in theory and practice in the world, they have to form their own government," Zhelev said. "If they don't like that, they can form a government of experts of their own, but we will not be part of it."

Lukanov suggested that splits in both the Socialist Party and the UDF could change Bulgaria's political landscape and ensure ultimate stability.

"The present distribution of forces is rather artificial," the premier said. "It hides the divisions of society, ideologies...

Bulgaria's new government must first tackle the country's \$10-billion foreign debt, rising inflation and consumer goods shortages. The newly elected unicameral grand National Assem-

pace, defence, and automobile conglomerate Daimler-Benz, and Italy's state-owned aerospace group Alenia.

British media said orders for 33 of the £25 million (\$43 million) aircraft would be cancelled. More than 920 Tornados have been sold, mainly to member states of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) alliance.

Defence Procurement Minister Alan Clark told parliament he could not foresee "any place for additional Tornado aircraft in our programme" and had decided against authorising further work on the next batch order.

He did not say how many of the planes were involved. They are built by a European consortium of British Aerospace, Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm, a subsidiary of West Germany's aerospace

group.

Clark and Defence Secretary Tom King, who addressed the House of Commons earlier, blamed higher than forecast inflation for forcing one of the deepest cuts in Britain's military spending in years.

Britain's defence budget is set to rise by five per cent this year to £21 billion (\$36 billion). But when

inflation is taken into account, the increase becomes a three per cent cut in real terms.

The possibility of a so-called peace dividend from the lessening of superpower tensions and democratisation of Eastern Europe is being considered separately by the Defence Ministry in a review called "options for change."

King has said the brunt of cuts under the programme would fall on the British army of the Rhine.

Announcing short-term measures to trim spending, King told parliament the ministry had temporarily banned most other new purchases while it examined what savings could be made.

Robbers steal \$1.25m in gold, cash

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Four robbers, three of them armed with guns, escaped with \$3.4 million in gold bars and cash worth about \$1.25 million (RM1.26 million) in one of Malaysia's biggest robberies, it was reported Monday. The Star and New Straits Times dailies said the robbery Sunday night at the airport in Kota Bharu, 400 kilometres northeast of Kuala Lumpur, occurred when two goldsmiths arrived from the capital with 70 gold bars were selling their batch to two other goldsmiths in a car park. Police superintendent Mohammad Yusof Lazim said a car with four men inside drew up as the transactions was being conducted and three gunmen got out and demanded the bars, the reports said. They took away 53 gold bars from the Kuala Lumpur goldsmiths and 1,643 million ringgit (\$608,000) in cash from the Kota Bharu goldsmiths and escaped. They failed to notice another 17 bars of gold which were in the car the goldsmiths had rented at the airport, the reports said.

The tense political scene in Burma is complicated by economic malaise and ethnic insurrections, which could be interpreted as threatening national unity. Within the National League for Democracy, relatively inexperienced young radicals are vying for control with a more moderate senior faction.

The opposition scored a huge victory over conservative, pro-military forces in the May 27 vote. Tallying show the parliament will be overwhelmingly domin-

ated by the junta's harshest critics, the National League for Democracy.

The military has promised to yield power after newly elected legislators enact a constitution and form a civilian government. But many express concern over whether the military will be able to wean itself from power.

Gen. Saw Maung seized power last Sept. 18, replacing the 26-year Socialist system of army强人朱文, who many believe still wields behind-the-scenes power.

The tense political scene in Burma is complicated by economic malaise and ethnic insurrections, which could be interpreted as threatening national unity. Within the National League for Democracy, relatively inexperienced young radicals are vying for control with a more moderate senior faction.

The Socialist's leading reformists, including Lukanov and Defence Minister Dobri Dzhourov, turned up for the celebrations, which coincided with the 108th anniversary of the birth of Georgi Dimitrov, the ideologist who shaped the face of Communist Bulgaria.

"Isn't it ironic that the Communists are celebrating their victory in a free election at the mausoleum of the man who destroyed multi-party politics in Bulgaria," one young Bulgarian said.

Another disgruntled youngster said he was leaving the country following the Socialist victory.

Leaders of the Rights and Freedoms and Agrarian parties have said they would not join a coalition just with the Socialists.

The Bulgarian capital, Sofia, going against the nationwide trend, voted overwhelmingly for the opposition, electing UDF candidates for 24 of 26 available seats.

Analysts say the Socialists won because of Bulgaria's deeply entrenched Communist tradition, going back nearly 100 years, and its fear of rapid change and possible job losses in the quick switch to private ownership advocated by the UDF. The Socialists favour leaving some industries government-run for the time being.

The current Socialist leadership also scored points for ousting hardliner Todor Zhivkov last November and initiating gradual reforms and was seen by voters as more charismatic than the seven-month-old UDF.

Non-Communist parties have rallied to Lukanov's second-round victory, which is seen as a major breakthrough in the transition to a market-based economy and stress on private enterprise drawing support from younger, more sophisticated urban voters.

Music blared from loudspeakers outside Socialist Party headquarters, a forbidding stone structure that was once off limits to the public but is now draped in bright red banners. A canopy coffee bar was opened on the pavement outside to attract young voters.

Party supporters hugged and kissed as they huddled beneath the loudspeakers to follow broadcasts of the election result.

The crowd walked away to the tunes of American rock band and Chicago singing. "It's hard for me to say I'm sorry, I just want you to know."

Armed man robs congregation during church service

PHILIPPI, West Virginia (AP) — A man armed with a sawed-off shotgun entered a church and robbed the 132-member congregation as they lay on the floor, praying amid the pews. The authorities said no one was hurt.

The man, wearing a stocking mask and sunglasses, made off with at least \$500 dollars, but didn't get the Faith Way Baptist Church's collection, according to church officials and the Barbour County Sheriff's Department.

The incident just outside this town in northeast West Virginia occurred about midway through the Sunday morning service, the sheriff's department said. The pastor's wife, Mrs. Mary Gregory, said the man came into the church basement and walked up the steps to the back of the sanctuary. "He had a gun and he said, 'this is a holdup. Everybody get down.' Every

body looked at him and they were just stunned," Mrs. Gregory said. "Everybody was down and they were praying and he was going around the pews and taking bills and coins.